

CONGRATULATING THE LANGLEY
HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S GOLF TEAM
ON WINNING THE VIRGINIA 6A
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Langley High School golf team on winning the Virginia 6A state golf championship. Their dedication, hard work, and perseverance helped earn their school its first state championship in golf since 2011. This achievement comes in spite of the physical hardships and tough course conditions the team endured during the final round.

The night before the second and final round, senior Brandon Berry came down with what was likely food poisoning. His condition had him bedridden for almost 14 hours. Nevertheless, Brandon took the course for the final round and recorded a 77. Also two freshmen, Nikita Gubenko and Brian Feinstein, recorded rounds of 75 and 80, respectively. Nikita's round was Langley's lowest of the day and helped the Saxons secure a 22-shot victory. It is this dedication that creates the level of excellence which these young men have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Langley Saxons on winning the Virginia 6A state golf championship. I am proud to represent these students and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING STEVE NAKAJO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Nakajo who has served as the executive director of Kimochi, Inc. for 45 years and has grown the organization into one of the most precious senior service organizations in the Bay Area. Steve is a sensei in every sense of the word: a respected person who has achieved a high level of mastery in his skills. He leaves behind an incredible legacy which frankly few of us do. I am honored to call him a friend and colleague for over 20 years.

Steve co-founded Kimochi in 1971 to bring social services to non-English speaking, first generation Japanese Americans in San Francisco's Japantown. Today, Kimochi provides 3,000 seniors from San Francisco and surrounding communities with services including transportation, nutrition, day care, housing, referral, consumer education, social services, and in-home care every year.

The creation of Kimochi Inc., which means feeling in Japanese, was inspired by the feeling for elders, first generation Japanese Americans or Issei, by third generation Japanese Americans or Sansei. The Sansei recognized that language and cultural barriers prevented the Issei from accessing every-day services, so they helped them to apply for government services or health benefits, they offered transportation and walking escorts, and they made

sure seniors could safely leave and return to their homes. The appreciation of the elders' sacrifices and hardships is integral to the organization's philosophy and Steve has been the embodiment of that philosophy. Respect, gratitude and love for the elders are expressed through the services that allow each generation to age with dignity, pride, support and friendship.

Steve's commitment to Kimochi has been unwavering and recognized around the world. In 1999, he addressed the Japanese National Conference on Aging in Tokyo on the history and philosophy of Kimochi, Inc. as the only U.S. delegate invited to the conference. In 2002, he addressed the San Diego Nikkey Elderly Forum. In 2007, he joined Mayor Gavin Newsom in Osaka to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco—Osaka Sister City relationship. In 2013, he was honored by the San Francisco Consul General of Japan for Kimochi Home's 30th anniversary. Earlier this year, it was my honor to help cut the ribbon on the new Kimochi House San Mateo, yet another grand vision of Steve Nakajo.

For the last 45 years, Steve has also been an instructor and lecturer in Japanese American and Asian Studies, sociology, social work, critical thinking and ethnic sensitivity training at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University and City College of San Francisco. His teaching career started in the Japanese American Studies Program in SFSU's School of Ethnic Studies. His co-instructors were the late Edison Uno and Dudley Yasuda. Uno, a civil rights advocate, was best known for his opposition to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Dudley was a psychology professor who was tragically murdered by one of his former students.

Steve has further contributed to the community by being one of the original organizers of the San Francisco Nihonmachi Street Fair and by being active with San Francisco's Japantown Cherry Blossom Festival for 46 years. He has also been on the San Francisco Fire Commission for 20 years and served on the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Steve, originally from Salt Lake City, received his education in San Francisco. He attended Morning Star School and Sacred Heart High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Science and his Master's degree in Social Work from SFSU. He and his wife Etsie have three children—Devon, Tracey and Lexus—and four grandsons—Yuki, Kai, Kyle and Jaden.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a remarkable man and teacher who has helped shape the fabric of San Francisco for almost half a century. Steve Nakajo may be retiring today, but his contributions and philosophy will resonate for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPELIKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce in Opelika, Alabama.

The Opelika Chamber was organized on January 13, 1941, and incorporated on August 26th by Homer Carter, Yetta G. Samford, R.W. Williams, Edward M. Roberts, Jr., Winston Smith T, A.L. Screws, A.C. Tatum, D.W. Ward, John L. Whatley and John D. McKibben. As recorded in the original Petition for Incorporation, the Chamber is to "promote the commercial, industrial, agricultural and civic interest of the City of Opelika and the surrounding territory; to promote integrity and good faith, just and equitable principles in business. . ." These words still ring true today.

The Opelika Chamber has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of the City of Opelika. Each year, the Chamber hosts over 200 events, program and advertising opportunities for its members.

Today, the Opelika Chamber is housed in the Whitfield-Duke-Searcy Home, built in 1895, at 601 Avenue A.

On December 15, 2016, there will be a celebration of the past 75 years held at The Aeerie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Opelika Chamber of Commerce on their 75th anniversary and wish them many, many more.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1976, this refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides vital habitat for migratory water fowl, fish and other species. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful example of Minnesota's commitment to conservation and the environment.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers a world class opportunity to experience Minnesota's natural landscape and view wildlife, starting from the heart of the Twin Cities metropolitan area in Bloomington stretching more than 70 miles along the Minnesota River to Henderson, Minnesota. More than 5,000 acres of the 14,000 acre refuge are protected as Waterfowl Production Areas. During peak migration periods, visitors are witness to exceptional bird watching as hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors are funneled into the valley along their migratory routes.

Another significant focus of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is land conservation and management of habitats ranging from wetlands, to floodplain forest, to tall grass prairie. These diverse habitats are actively managed using modern conservation techniques such as biological control, prescribed burning and invasive plant removal to benefit the resident plants and animals. Refuge staff also reaches out to private local land owners on conservation and restoration efforts to enhance wildlife habitat within the region.

Minnesotans are steadfast stewards of the beautiful and diverse natural environments